

Speed Limit Issues in Montana

Montana's curvy, mountainous roads and weather—which can change quickly even during summer months—require drivers to be alert to conditions at all times and to adjust speeds accordingly.

Daytime speed limits are in effect from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Nighttime speed limits are in effect at any other time.

Other Speed Limit Restrictions

Careless and Reckless Driving

Laws prohibiting careless or reckless driving are in effect on Montana roads. These laws allow motorists to be stopped even if they are not exceeding the posted speed limit, if the speed at which they are traveling is considered too fast for conditions or dangerous to others on the road.

Careful and Prudent Driving

Montana law also requires motorists to operate their vehicles in a careful and prudent manner and at a reduced rate of speed, taking into account the traffic, weather, visibility and road conditions.

Drivers must operate their vehicles with regard for the safety of people and property and in such a manner that they do not endanger the life, limb, property or other rights of people entitled to use the highways.

Drivers must be aware of:

- the amount and type of traffic sharing the highway with them. The traffic may be heavy or light and may include trucks, cars, motor homes, farm equipment, motorcycles and bicycles.
- changing weather conditions—fog, snow, water and ice, for example—that affect visibility and road conditions.
- the type of vehicle being driven, particularly the condition of the brakes and the weight of the vehicle, which affects braking ability.
- the character of the highway the driver is traveling. Drivers should adjust their speed for hills or for winding and narrow roads.
- the presence of intersections, railway grade crossings or pedestrians.

(Information from the Montana State Department of Justice web site www.doj.mt.gov/)